

Claims

1. Wheelchair, comprising:
 - an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,
 - drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, and
 - operating means connected to the assembly for operating the drive means, characterized in that the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit.
2. Wheelchair as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the operating means comprise at least one operating member for the user, wherein the operating member is positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit.
3. Wheelchair as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the operating means comprise two operating members positioned on either side of the chair unit.
4. Wheelchair as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the operating member is adapted to undergo at least one change in orientation.
5. Wheelchair as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the operating member is adapted to undergo a first change in orientation for regulating the displacement speed of the wheelchair, and a second change in orientation for manoeuvring of the wheelchair.
6. Wheelchair as claimed in claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the operating member is displaceable between at least two extreme positions.
7. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the claims 4-6, characterized in that the operating member takes an at least substantially tubular form and is axially rotatable through a determined angle of rotation.

8. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the claims 4-7, characterized in that the operating means comprise at least one sensor connected to the assembly for sensing the change in orientation of the operating member.

5 9. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the operating means are adapted for wireless communication with the drive means.

10. 10. Wheelchair as claimed in claim 2, and any of the claims 1, 3-9, characterized in that the drive means are adapted for independent driving of a plurality of carrying wheels, wherein the operating members are each adapted to control a determined driven carrying wheel.

15 11. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the operating means are connected to a wheel shaft received in a hub of at least one carrying wheel.

20 12. 13. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the drive means are provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel.

25 14. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that at least a part of the operating means is positioned on a side of at least one carrying wheel remote from the chair unit.

15. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the operating means can be locked in at least one position.

30 16. Wheelchair as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the operating means are releasably connected to the assembly.

17. Operating means for use in a wheelchair as claimed in any of the claims 1-16.